

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF BUCKLAND
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Church Phone: 625-9440 Pastor's Phone: (413) 634-5451
Rev. Richard T. Fournier, Pastor
Sandy Carter - Organist / Pianist
May 2, 2021 - Fifth Sunday of Easter

"People who love each other fully and truly are the happiest people in the world. They may have little, they may have nothing, but they are happy people. Everything depends on how we love one another." Mother Teresa

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT "Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above"- arranged by Kevin McBeth

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Pastor: Come together expecting great things.

People: We wait for the promises of God.

Pastor: In God's time the Holy Spirit will come to you.

People: We will be empowered as faithful witnesses.

Pastor: The Risen Christ is still present to us.

People: And through the Spirit is available to every heart.

***HYMN** "It Only Takes a Spark" No. 484

***UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

It is spring, dear God, and something stirs in us, reaching, stretching, groping for words, peeking through our defenses, beckoning in our laughter, riding on past our fears, pulsing in our music. And there is mystery and the smile of it. Be with us in our reaching so that we will touch or be touched, this time, by a grace, a warmth, a light, to unfold our lives to new beginnings, fresh buddings, a spring within us as well as around us. Dear God, you are the source of the power of spring in nature and in our lives, be with us in our unfolding. Amen

***GLORIA PATRI** "Glory Be to the Father" No. 575

FIRST SCRIPTURE John 15: 1-11 page 878

CHOIR ANTHEM "I Am the Vine"

PRAYER REQUESTS

PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

"Our Father, who art in heaven. Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day, our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen."

PRAYER RESPONSE "O Lord, Hear My Prayer"

OFFERTORY (We request that you leave your contributions in the basket on your way out or mail them to Vi Scott.)

SCRIPTURE READING 1 John 4: 7-21 page 991

MESSAGE "Staying Connected Through Christ's Love" - Rich Fournier

CHOIR ANTHEM "The Table of the Lord" - G. Bourland & K. Bible

COMMUNION

UNISON PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION:

Blessed are you, O God, that you have taken from our hands simple gifts of bread and wine and fashioned them a sign to us of your boundless love. Blessed are you that you have taken us and made us signs of hope and healing in the world. Our lives are bread broken and shared, our love is wine brimming with spirit. May we become nourishment for the lives of others and for all of your creation. Amen

***CONGREGATIONAL SONG** "Blest Be the Tie That Binds" No. 207

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE**

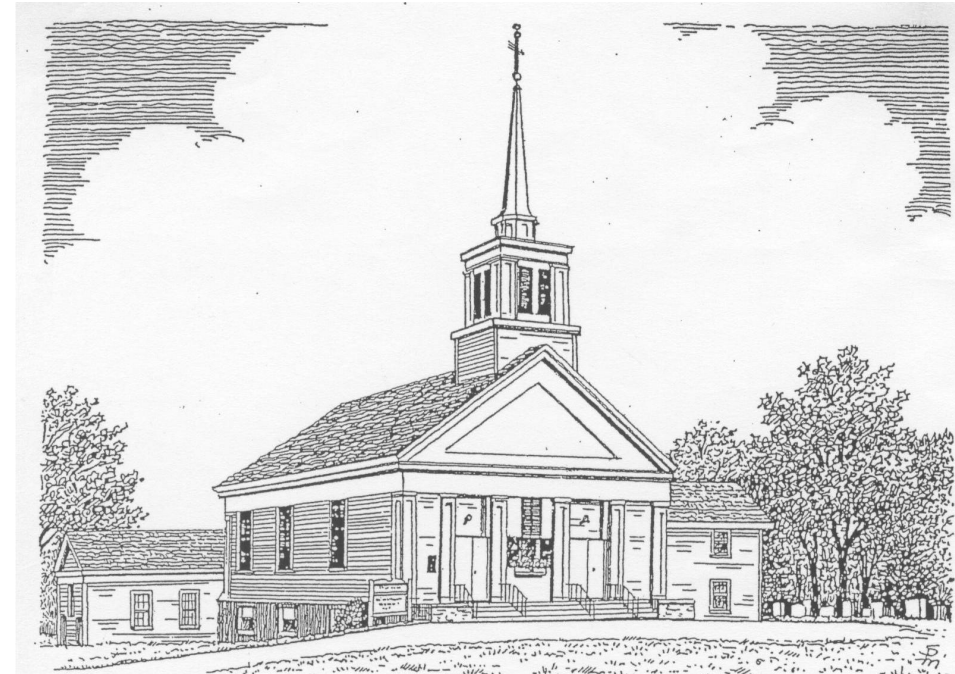
*=All who are able, are invited to stand.

Announcements

Today we will be sharing communion together. If you did not bring your own bread and grape juice, you can help yourself to some in the foyer, where you entered the church, which is individually packaged for everyone's safety.

A reminder that we are still collecting food for the Hilltown Food Pantry. For the month of April we are focusing on collecting canned fruits and vegetables.

Tina Peters has volunteered to take charge of providing flowers for the Sunday worship service for the month of May. If anyone wishes to provide flowers for any Sunday in May, please call Tina at 413-625-9629.



Mary Lyon Church

First Congregational Church of Buckland

P.O. Box 87

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